

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /075 W

----- 090590

R 150815Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO CINCPAC HAWAII

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1513

NAVELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119

COMMANDANT COAST GUARD WASHDC

OSD/PA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4556

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, OTRA, AS, US

SUBJ: PRESS VISIT TO OMEGA STATION IN HAWAII

REF: A) CANBERRA 4362 B) CINCPAC 082131Z AUG 73 (NOTAL)

C) CANBERRA 4231

1. THREE AUSTRALIAN DAILIES AUG 15 CARRY STORIES BASED UPON VISIT BY JOURNALISTS IN PM WHITLAM'S PARTY TO OMEGA STATION IN HAWAII. MAIN THRUST OF ARTICLE WRITTEN BY LAURIE OAKES APPEARING IN MELBOURNE SUN IS THAT U.S. WOULD NOT BE HURT BY LACK OF STATION IN AUSTRALIA SINCE SHIPPING LANES OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO U.S. ARE IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE. OAKES DESCRIBED JOURNALIST'S VISIT AS HAVING "ALL THE EARMARKES OF A POLITICAL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT". HE CONCLUDES HIS ARTICLE BY CASTING DOUBT ON U.S. STATEMENT THAT OMEGA WILL NOT BE USED ON NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINES. OTHER TWO STORIES CONCENTRATE UPON STATEMENT APPARENTLY MADE BY COMMANDER ASCHE THAT OMEGA SYSTEM HAS NO CAPABILITY FOR TRANSMITTING MESSAGES.

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COPY OF NEWS ARTICLES BEING SENT TO CINCPAC, WASH.

NAVELEXSYSCOM AND TOKYO.

2. IN SAME PAPERS, OMEGA OPPONENT BILL HARTLEY IS REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED FROM VISIT TO JAPAN. HARTLEY STATES THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND OF THE USEFULNESS OF OMEGA AS A "DIRECTION FINDING SYSTEM". FOR NUCLEAR SUBMARINES. HARTLEY ALSO STATES HE VISITED THE UNFINISHED OMEGA STATION ON TSUSHIMA ISLAND DURING HIS TRIP TO JAPAN. HARTLEY IS ALSO REPORTED ON TELEVISION NEWS TO HAVE CALLED FOR SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE USEFULNESS OF OMEGA TO AUSTRALIA AND RAMIFICATIONS OF ESTABLISHMENT OF OMEGA STATION HERE.

3. COMMENT: OMEGA OBVIOUSLY CONTINUES TO BE CONTENTIOUS PUBLIC SUBJECT IN AUSTRALIA. HARTLEY IN PARTICULAR AS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST LEFT WING OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE CAMPAIGN AGAINST OMEGA AT EVERY CONCEIVABLE OPPORTUNITY. VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS TO OMEGA STATION IN HAWAII CAN BE CONSIDERED A PLUS, ALTHOUGH TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF RESULTING ARTICLES LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. OAKES' PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT "POLITICAL RELATIONS EFFORT" IS PARTICULARLY CYNICAL SINCE HE HIMSELF INITIATED THE BRIEFING.

4. FOR POLAD: WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR VISIT TO OMEGA STATION HAWAII BY MAJOR OF DENILIKUIN, NEW SOUTH WALES AT END OF AUGUST (REF C). MOST RECENT INFORMATION, HOWEVER, INDICATED DEPT. OF TRANSPORT IS EYEING TASMANIA RATHER THAN DENILIKUIN AS SITE FOR OMEGA STATION. INFORMATION ON DENILIKUIN ALSO BEING FORWARDED.
GREEN

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